

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 NIC-01 SY-04 SCCT-01 /079 W

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O P 102115Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2102

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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FOR ARA/CAR BURKE AND HIGH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, CASC, NA

SUBJECT: LABOR UNION DISPUTE WITH HOTELS INVOLVES ALLEGED  
KIDNAPPING OF MANAGERS AND THREATS TO HOTEL PERSONNEL

1. SUMMARY. ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 7, THE MANAGERS OF THE INTERCONTINENTAL AND HILTON HOTELS WERE ALLEGEDLY TAKEN FORCIBLY FROM THEIR HOMES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF HORECAF (HOTEL WORKERS UNION) IN AN EFFORT TO PRESSURE THEM INTO SIGNING A DISPUTED LABOR CONTRACT, BUT THEY WERE RELEASED BY POLICE INTERVENTION. UNION OFFICIALS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY HELD WHILE POLICE INVESTIGATED CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING. THEY ARE STILL BEING HELD AND HORECAF, SUPPORTED BY THE OTHER CHRISTIAN UNIONS, IS DEMANDING THEIR RELEASE BY NOON ON JANUARY 10 UNDER THREAT OF QTE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES UNQTE, COMMONLY INTERPRETED AS A GENERAL STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

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WM STORMY NEGOTIATIONS OVER A NEW LABOR CONTRACT

HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HILTON AND INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS AND HORECAF, WHICH REPRESENTS VIRTUALLY ALL HOTEL WORKERS IN CURACAO. THE MAIN BONE OF CONTENTION IS THE UNION'S DEMAND THAT THE CONTRACT'S DEFINITION OF WAGES INCLUDE THE GENERAL WAGE SUPPLEMENT PROVIDED BY PRO-RATED DISTRIBUTION OF THE 15 PERCENT SERVICE CHARGE ADDED TO ALL HOTEL AND RESTAURANT BILLS. SUCH A TECHNICAL REDUFINITION WOULD INCREASE PAYROLL COSTS FROM SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS IN A MANNER THE HOTELS FIND UNACCEPTABLE; INFORMED OPINION HOLDS THAT BY REDEFINING WAGES HORECAF IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS THEY ARE NOT CONTRACTUALLY ENTITLED TO. NEGOTIATIONS WERE STALLED AT THIS POINT. ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 7, PEDRO DE ALDREY (US CITIZEN), MANAGER OF THE HILTON HOTEL, AND TONY PERINGER (US PERMANENT RESIDENT WITH US CITIZEN WIFE), MANAGER OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, TOGETHER WITH THEIR CORPORATE ATTORNEY (COMBALUZIER), WERE PHYSICALLY COERCED INTO VISITING HORECAF UNION HALL WHERE THEY CLAIM THEY WERE THREATENED IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THEM SIGN AN AGREEMENT ACCEPTING THE UNION'S VIEW OF THE WAGE PROBLEM. POLICE FORCED ENTRANCE TO THE HALL, AND SECURED THEIR RELEASE; THREE UNION LEADERS INCLUDING HORECAF PRESIDNET O.L. SEMEREL WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED ON KIDNAPPING CHARGES.

3. THE THREE UNION LEADERS HAVE REMAINED IN POLICE CUSTODY PENDING INVESTIGATION OF THA CHARGES; HORECAF HAS SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE GNA THREATENING QTE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES UNQTE UNLESS THEY ARE RELEASED BY NOON ON JANUARY 10. THE DEADLINE PASSED TODAY WITH NO RELEASE HAVING TAKEN PLACE ALTHOUGH THE GNA HAS ACCELERATED THE JUDICIAL PROCESS AND PROMISED A HEARING FOR THIS AFTERNOON TO DETERMINE IF FURTHER DETENTION IS WARRANTEDBM

4. THREATS OF A GENERAL STRIKE HAVE BEEN MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF HORECAF AND SUPPORT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN PROMISED FROM THE OTHER CHRISTIAN UNIONS, AS WELL AS FROM THE AVVC LABOR CONFEDERATION (WHICH INCLUDES GOVERNMENT WORKERS, PETROLEUM WORKERS, AND MOST OF THE DOCK WORKERS).

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5. THE STRIKE HAS MOST PROBABLY BEEN DEFERRED PENDING THE RULING IN THIS AFTERNOON'S HEARING. SOME STORES HAVE REPORTEDLY SHUT DOWN AND OPERATIONS IN ALL THE HOTELS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED SINCE MOST HORECAF MEMBERS HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM THEIR JOBS WITHOUT ANY STRIKE OFFICIALLY BEING CALLED. IT IS REPORTED THAT MANY TOURISTS HAVE DEPARTED THE ISLAND.

6. ADDING FUEL TO THE ALREADY TENSE SITUATION, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS (TI) IS TODAY PREPARING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE IMMINENT LAY-OFF OF HALF ITS PRESENT WORK FORCE OF 900. TI'S ACTION IS BASED ON THE SAME ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT RECENTLY CAUSED THE ISLAND'S OTHER MAJOR ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLING FIRM, ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL, TO LAY OFF ALMOST ITS ENTIRE WORK FORCE OF 400 PEOPLE. (SEE CURACAO'S A-40, DATED OCTOBER 11, 1974.)

7. IN RESPONSE TO HORECAF'S DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ITS LEADERS, THE GNA HAS, SO FAR, STOOD FIRM IN MAINTAINING THAT THE CASE WAS SUB JUDICE AND THAT INTERFERENCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE'S DECISION AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING, COULD ALLOW THE RELEASE OF THE ACCUSED AND CALM THE PASSIONS OF UNIONS. DE ALDREY AND PIRINGER HAVE REFUSED TO WITHDRAW THEIR ACCUSATION, DESPITE THREATS TO THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY AND THAT OF THEIR FAMILIES. DE ALDREY TELEPHONED THE CONSUL GENERAL AND EXPRESSED FEAR OVER HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S PERSONAL SAFETY. HE REQUESTED THAT THE CONGEN PERMIT HIM TO MOVE INTO ITS OFFICE FOR PERSONAL SAFETY. IN RESPONSE, THE CONSUL GENERAL OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM THE NETHERLAND ANTILLES SECURITY SERVICE (NASS) THAT POLICE PROTECTION WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR BOTH DE ALDREY AND PERINGER AT THEIR HOTELS.

8. COMMENT: LABOR DISPUTES IN THE NA, ESPECIALLY INVOLVING HOTEL WORKERS, ARE FREQUENT, BUT THE INTRODUCTION OF ABDUCTION AND THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IS A NEW ELEMENT. GNA CONCERN IS OBVIOUS. THE SPECTRE OF THE 1969 DISTURBANCES AND THE PROSPECTS OF ANY USE OF FORCE ARE CAUSE FOR THE SERIOUS VIEW ON WHAT WOULD NORMALLY BE A ROUTINE LABOR MATTER. UNION WORKERS HAVE BEEN WORRIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT RAMPANT INFLATION AND THE FURTHER LOOMING UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE PROPOSED TI ACTION WILL EXACERBATE BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. THE GNA, AWARE OF THESE IMPLICATIONS, IS UNWILLING TO ALLOW ITS AUTHORITY TO BE UNDERMINED, BUT IS SEARCHING FOR A METHOD TO AVOID OPEN CONFRONTATION. LOFTON

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## Message Attributes

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